

Grapevine

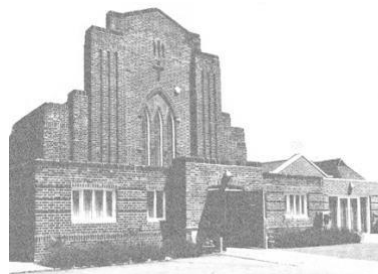
March, April, May 2024



Ickenham United
Reformed Church Magazine



*Minister
In vacancy*



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Please would you inform Shellie if you change address, phone number, or email address, in order to help us keep up to date records

Children & Families Worker:

In Vacancy

Opinions expressed in Grapevine do not necessarily reflect the views of Ickenham United Reformed Church

From the Elders

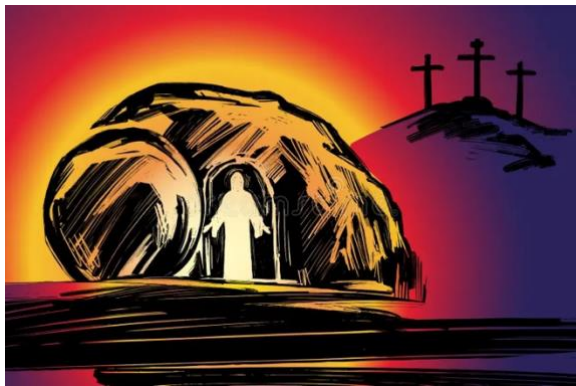
Looking for the Resurrection



An elderly couple are driving down the motorway when the wife gets a call from their daughter. *'Mum, there's a car driving the wrong way down the motorway!'* The wife warns her husband that there is a lunatic on the motorway. Her husband, clutching the wheel in terror, replies: *'One lunatic? There are dozens of them, all headed*

straight for us!' What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed it reads: *'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.'* In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection, there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: *'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him'* (Mark 16: 6,7).



Like the women we would probably have been left *'trembling and bewildered'* by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we can look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of His presence through the darkest of times.

God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life at work in our lives and the people around us.

John Miller

Birthdays



March	
2 nd	Keeley Wilson
19 th	Celia Miller Richard Boyes Kathryn Dungey
22 nd	Sue Hughes
23 rd	Ruth Piper
26 th	Hannah Hughes
27 th	Heather Piper

April	
6 th	Daniel Madadi
9 th	Pauline Woodham
26 th	Leigh Smith



Family News & Dates –

Food For Thought

Wednesday 6th March 1.00pm

Elders Meeting

Tuesday 12th March 2.00pm

Liaison Meeting

Thursday 14th March 7.00pm in Oasis

Elder Meeting

Tuesday 21st March 2.00pm in Oasis

Prayer Group Meeting

Wednesday 20th March 2.00pm in Hardwick Room



Church Services

Sunday, 3rd March at 11.00am

led by Denis Golden

Sunday, 10th March at 11.00am

Mothering Sunday

led by the Elders

Sunday, 17th March at 11.00am

led by Peter Williams

Includes Holy

Communion

Sunday, 24th March at 11.00am

Palm Sunday

led by Jeremy Day

Thursday 28th
April Maundy
Thursday 7.00pm
Seder Meal at URC

Friday 29th April
Good Friday
10.30am Walk of
Witness starting
at the URC
followed by service
and frugal lunch at
St Giles 12.00pm
Meditation at the Cross followed at 3.30 pm



Sunday, 31st March at 11.00am
Easter Sunday
led by Sue Clifford

Sunday 7th April at 11.00am
led by Jeremy Day

Sunday, 14th April at 11.00am
led by Lesley Goldsmith

Sunday 21st April at 11.00am
Covenant Service at St. Giles' Church - TBC

Sunday 28th at 11.00am
Preaching with a View Service

Sunday, 5th May at 10.30am at St. Giles' Church
led by TBC

Sunday 12th May at 11.00am
led by TBC

Sunday 19th May at 11.00am

led by Lesley Goldsmith with Holy Communion

Sunday 26th May at 11.00am

led by TBC



Memorial Service Remembering Loved Ones

On Sunday 12th May there will be a Memorial Service at 3.00 p.m. at St. Giles' Church for those who are bereaved. During the service the names of those who have died, whose funerals were conducted at Ickenham URC or by St. Giles' Church staff between the beginning of March 2023 and the end of February 2024, will be read out. Members of the Bereavement Support Group will be present. After the service, the congregation will be invited for refreshments in the St. Giles' Church Hall.

Anyone who would find this service helpful is welcome to attend.



World Day of Prayer Service 2024 at the URC Friday 1st March at 2.00pm

The invitation to write the service for 2024 was given well before the recent outbreak of violence in this area. It was written as an opportunity to reflect on continuing challenging times, encouraging Palestinian Christian women to keep searching for a deeper understanding among all the people who share the land, trusting for and hoping in the humanity of one another. Geography: Gaza is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, bordering Egypt and Israel. It covers 365 sq km with over 2 million inhabitants, nearly half of them children, making Gaza the third most densely populated area in the world. The West Bank is so named because it is on the west bank of the Jordan River. The Palestinian Authority, formed in 1994, was given partial civil control over two of the three areas. Today the Palestinian Authority is based in Ramallah which is the capital of Palestine.

Population: Palestinians are a scattered population with over 12 million living all over the world. Estimates suggest that just over 5 million Palestinians currently reside in Palestine and Israel. There is a small Christian minority in this predominantly Muslim country, making up about 2% of the Palestinian population.

**Please join us if you can on Friday 1st March 2024 at 2pm.
Now more than ever we need to pray for an end to this
conflict and peace in Palestine and Israel.**

Julie Dungey



It's Lent Already!

Based on Exodus 24:12-18

I don't know about you, but I'm only just getting 'over' Christmas and we plunged 'head-long and full throttled' into Lent. I feel catapulted!

As Christians, we are so good at celebrating the virgin birth. We endorse the build up with present buying, socialising (eating and drinking), singing carols and attending carol services, meeting up with families and acquaintances, (eating and drinking), decorating our homes - inside and out, wrapping presents, (eating and drinking), food shopping, food preparation and then more eating and drinking!! In a flash, its over and we turn to packing Christmas 'away' - the tree back in the loft, the baubles and tinsel back in the box or bag, the cards and wrapping recycled, the unwanted presents with the gift receipt exchanged and the start of good habits with new year's resolutions and plans. We move into Epiphany which is a chance for us to reflect on the nature of God's physical manifestation on Earth and pay homage to three important visitors in the biblical account of Jesus' birth - the magi. And then, as if by magic, this year we are into Lent in mid-February. Lent is a period of remorseful preparation for Easter. In Western churches it begins on Ash

Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides a 40-day period for fasting and abstinence (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. Lent is a solemn time.

At a recent Worship Group led service, I gave a reflection based on the transfiguration - Transfiguration Sunday was 11th February. In that reflection entitled 'Do you crave enlightenment, awe and wonder?' I posed a couple of questions - How often do you find yourself able to pause for a moment in awe and wonder? How often are you enchanted by the world around you? Explaining Transfiguration isn't easy but we involved the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Professor McGonagall from the Harry Potter books. It worked, we think, or at least feedback told us we made it work!

You see, you won't be surprised that the Christian faith has a rich tradition of mysticism. Bernard McGinn in his book which compiles the key texts of the Christian mystics, defines Christian mysticism as: *“the preparation [of a person] for, the consciousness of, and the effect of a direct and transformative presence of God.”* In other words, mystics are people who are intentionally seeking a direct and transformational encounter with God, or a union with God, often through contemplative spiritual practices. You could say that the philosophy underpinning mysticism, which was at its height in Western Christianity in the Middle Ages, is one which values an openness to inexplicable spiritual or supernatural experiences. It is therefore not surprising that the Enlightenment, with a philosophy of its own that values the pursuit of reason, knowledge and understanding saw a change in the way we relate to those events in our Christian stories which the mystics related to most easily.

The Celtic Christians speak of 'thin places' where heaven and earth are closer, where God feels more tangible, where spiritual experiences happen more easily, where our stuffy, logical, reasonable, busy minds are quieted enough to notice the divine

permeating the place. I invited the congregation to identify a sacred 'thin' place for their individual time with God. I didn't ask for answers (in the fear someone might have asked 'the bathroom' - although why not eh?) We know that God is with us in the ordinary, as well as the extraordinary 'spaces' of our lives. We know that moments of incredible connection with the divine can happen while doing the washing up, while sitting in a traffic jam, or while walking the dog.

Transfiguration is about openly entering into an encounter with God and simply being present. We know that Moses remained in the cloud above the mountain for forty days. He didn't hurry back down to continue his life. He was present with God, for as long as he could be.

Now, we may not each have forty days to sit on a mountaintop (I certainly don't), but God calls us to be present to God's presence all around us – in our sacred places and in our everyday lives. God calls us into a life of awe and wonder, of enchantment. God calls us to pay attention to the ways God is revealed and speaks to us. God calls us to be open to all the ways God transfigures us into our most true, loving, present, and authentic selves. Let us live as mystics, as disciples, as prophets: eagerly awaiting an encounter with God on every mountaintop, on every dog walk and in every traffic jam.

During this Lent period I encourage you to find, or go to your sacred place and take the opportunity to explore your faith as part of your response to God. Seek awe, wonder and enchantment as your journey through Lent and on the approach to the amazing events of Easter.

Let us pray:

God who meets us in the extraordinary, on the mountaintop, thank you for the miracles you perform all around us. For new life, for babies born and bulbs breaking through soil. Thank you for the miracles of science and medicine, for justice long sought

and brought about, for all those working as campaigners and innovators to preserve your creation. Grant each of us the eyes and ears to notice your extraordinary work all around us, and to join in.

God who meets us in the ordinariness of life, you know all the struggles of our days. We hold before you people in our local communities and those we know who are struggling. Whether with poor mental or physical health, anxiety, stretched finances, or concerns relating to friends or family, help them to be aware of you alongside them. Grant each of us peace we pray.

God who is ever present to us, help us to be present to you. Show us the way to notice and name you with authenticity and joy in our daily lives. Grant us the confidence we need to follow you and to share your magnificent light with others.

Amen.

Prayer based on the The Vine service material distributed through Twelve Baskets.

Jeremy Day

From the Fundraising and Social Group

2023 ended on a real high with a great crowd in on Festive Community Night for the “Peace” display in the church and



our Christmas stalls, supported by CLICK Rukiga and the Townswomen’s Guild. The Oasis was busy for the raffle and tea, coffee and the tasty mince pies kindly contributed by Margot Barnikel and altogether we banked £736, as well as making another

contribution to village life. The icing on the cake was some wonderful carol singing from members of Hillingdon Choral Society along with some friends and I feel that, if they are willing to do a repeat this year, we should publicise it. Many thanks go to John Miller and Shellie D'Arcy for their hard work decorating the church. Also thanks to Wendy Munn and Anne Goodhew making some of the decorations for in the church and to all who helped in any way, perhaps particularly again to Wendy Munn, and Pat Smith for making the festive items.

We've started this year on a positive note too, with a well-attended coffee morning and coin mountain, which had a nice atmosphere and made £70 on the coffee and cakes and £75 on the mountain. The latter figure was twice the 2023 equivalent, boosted by a lady who phoned me asking if we wanted a giant whisky bottle filled with 1p coins. That's ICN publicity for you!

Now we move on to our three forecourt sales and coffee mornings on 27th April, 8th June [helping to kickstart the Festival] and 7th September. The format will be much as previously,

featuring plants, bric-a-brac, books, toys and games and various collectables, but I hope to find room inside for a table featuring a range of small, quirky objects which have been coming in. The eclectic mix so



far includes an otoscope [look it up!], a miniature travelling tool set, an RAF medal ribbon and some rather elaborate WW2 Red Cross certificates, but more would be welcome. It would be good if we could beat the £1101 that went to the church and £551 to

each of our charities last year. As you already know, this year's external charities are THE SMILE TRAIN and PAPYRUS [prevention of young suicide] and I would like to thank all of you who voted for the latter, with which sadly I have a personal connection. As ever, we'll be looking for lots of help and lots of donations this year, so please make a resolution to do what you can. Most [all I suppose] of us aren't getting any younger but hopefully we can still do our bit!

Richard Piper

Breakspear School Year 3 Visits to Ickenham URC



On Tuesday 17th October 2023 John and I welcomed 3 separate classes of Year 3 Breakspear School children (age 7-8 yrs) with their teachers and some parents to our church. It has been a few years since children from the school last visited so we were very pleased that the school wanted children to come again as part of their Religious Education curriculum. The school is very broad now in its ethnicity, so it can only be a good thing that children come to gain an understanding of other faiths.

I began my talk by explaining in simple terms what the United Reformed Church is and that we are one of the Christian denominations and have similar beliefs to St. Giles' Church, but that our services have a slightly different format.

I then explained what takes place during our services – prayers, Bible readings, music and songs and a Message, etc. We also talked about Holy Communion – how it was established by Jesus and how we celebrate it in our church, usually on Sunday once a month. We showed the chalice, the trays for bread and the small individual wine glasses.

After the general information about our church life, I gave a brief history about how our church came into being in our community. In this I was ably assisted by John who showed the historical pictures and old documents that belong to our church and the wooden pew from the old Congregational Chapel. The children were very interested in all of this and had lots of questions to ask at the end! Finally, we allowed them to walk around the church and explained anything they weren't sure about. Before each class left we looked at the David Brickett memorial, the war memorial and the Covenant certificate in the lobby.

One little girl came to me and said "I pass by this church every day on the way to and from school", so I replied, "Well now you know what it looks like inside. Please come and see us again!" We did advertise that our church will be open on the Ickenham Festive Community Evening in December, so we hope that some of the children will return, bringing their parents.

John and I were very encouraged by the enthusiasm of the children and we hope that the school will now want to continue this connection in the future.

Celia Miller





Christian Aid Week

is from 12th to 18th of May 2024.

Christian Aid is a charity working with 700 local organisations across about 50 countries around the world. They help poor communities and enable them to deal with hardships, from climate change to the threat of natural disasters. Alongside this, Christian Aid also help with the education, sanitation, health, and reconciliation of certain communities. Their aim is to end poverty and injustice worldwide by working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

Christian Aid Week began in 1957, with the goal of encouraging public awareness. Its aim in the 1960s was to make people aware of the threat of hunger and the possibility of famine. This annual event across the UK, distributes the now familiar red envelopes for door-to-door fundraising by the Christian Aid charity. Thousands of people take to the streets up and down the country but with options to give online and fewer willing and able volunteers, the street collections have stopped in many areas including Ickenham. Yet the week itself should not be forgotten! During the week, Christian Aid ask for supporters to give their time, money and voices to help bring lasting change to some of the world's poorest communities.

This year, Christian Aid Week will focus on the cost of living crisis faced by many people around the world. The focus is on how rising food costs affect people living in Malawi, and how Christian Aid partners are supporting farmers and their families with the pigeon pea: a low-cost, resilient crop that can help defend against drought and other dangers of climate change.

During the week, Christian Aid ask for supporters to give their time, money and voices to help bring lasting change to some of the world's poorest communities.

Please pray during this week for the communities involved and particularly those who are fundraising in the UK. Whilst we may not go door to door collecting, there is the opportunity to give on line (www.christianaid.org.uk) or post back an envelope with your donation (envelopes will be available at the back of the Church). Your prayers to support this worthy cause can go a long way.

Julie Dungey



Foodbank for Lent

Foodbanks are still under considerable pressure this year so instead of 'GIVING UP' something for Lent why not 'GIVE TO' by donating items to the Foodbank?

New AdLent Calendars have been available from 18th February with suggestions of items

which they are most in need of at this time.

Please bring your donations by 22nd. March. They will be taken to St Gregory's Church by Alan in time for distribution before Easter.

(Please note that currently they have **plenty** of Pasta, Cereal and Baked beans.)

Please ensure that there is 3 months shelf life on all items.
Thank you.

Patricia Potter



What is it?

Where was this photograph taken. See the answer on page 26

New Year's Lunch (4th February 2024)

If you were one of those who were unable to join us for this year's lunch you missed a treat.

We started with a buck's fizz in The Oasis, then moved on to the Main Hall, which had been nicely laid out, and well provided for, including a supply of red and white wine or soft drinks.

After Frank had led us in grace we tucked into a 3 course meal with 2 choices at each level, plus special arrangements for vegetarians, vegans and coeliacs finishing up with tea and coffee and of course mints.



I am sure everyone will agree that the food was excellent and the portions were extremely generous and I am surprised more people did not start dozing off. Just as well as we finished with several items by members to entertain us.



A lovely church family get together and all for the amazing price of £15 per head.

Although not planned as a fund-raising event, we are delighted to report that mainly due to Jeremy's excellent management we also raised £68.99 for our Church funds.

Our special thanks to Jeremy and Liz for looking after us so well, to Katie & Hanna who took away the burden of all the inevitable washing up and

clearing of tables, and to those who helped set up for the event on the Saturday and particularly clearing away on the Sunday. Discussions have already started on other possible events, and certainly a Harvest Meal, so keep your eyes out for further details.



Keith

May the month of....

UNBRIDLED MERRIMENT

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'



Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down – only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and – since 1833 – Robert Owen’s vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism. There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.



An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower
We are here today and gone tomorrow – we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.



Prison Mission

Bible Society has a rich history of working in prisons and alongside prisoners, dating back to their foundation in 1804. Bible Society's founders and early leaders included William Wilberforce and the Earl of Shaftesbury, and many of them – members of the Clapham Sect of evangelical Christians – were committed to prison reform and changes to the penal system.



Elizabeth Fry - The angel of prisons

Queen Victoria admired her, the King of Prussia travelled to London to see her impact, and Sir Thomas Foxwell Buxton praised her work in Parliament. Because of her, thousands of prisoners in England had better lives.



Elizabeth Fry was born on 21 May 1780 and raised in the Quaker tradition. Driven by her love for God, she became a social reformer, dedicating her life to the poor, homeless and imprisoned. She first became involved with Bible Society in 1811, when she preached and led the prayers at the inaugural meeting of the Norwich branch.

Loving the least of these

After seeing the overcrowded, brutal conditions in Newgate Prison in 1813, she began campaigning for prison reform, convinced that 'punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal'. She founded prison schools for children who were imprisoned with their mothers, worked to pass the Gaols Act 1823, which separated male and female inmates and improved their living conditions, and fought for the lives of those facing the death penalty, which at the time was widely used.

Because of her colossal impact, she became known as the 'angel of prisons'.

Her love permeated all of London, reaching beyond its prisons. Elizabeth campaigned for the abolition of the slave trade, fought for the rights of women, and provided Bibles, Christian resources, and necessities for the poor and homeless.

Resolutely, she set out to do what she felt called to do at just 17, when she wrote, 'While I live, may I be generous; it is in my nature, and I will not overcome so good a feeling.'

Elizabeth's heart for 'the least of these' continues to inspire us. She fed the hungry, clothed the poor, looked after the sick and loved prisoners. And whatever she did for them, she was doing for Jesus (*Matthew 25:35 - 40*)

You can follow in the footsteps of the 'angel of prisons' by helping to provide Bibles and resources like *The Bible Course* to men and women serving sentences in England and Wales today. Elizabeth Fry believed that prisons should be places of reformation, and because of your support, that vision is becoming a reality as the light of Scripture is released in the darkest places. Carry on Elizabeth Fry's legacy and provide lasting change in the lives of prisoners by giving them the Bible.

History of Bible Society's Prison Mission

In fact the Earl of Shaftesbury's success in improving the care of those detained for mental health reasons under the 'Lunacy Laws', as they were known, is arguably one of his greatest, yet least-known, achievements. Another early figure in the life of Bible Society, Thomas Fowell Buxton, was an influential campaigner for prison reform, particularly around improvements in conditions for prisoners. Buxton was a keen advocate for the work of renowned prisoner reformer Elizabeth Fry, 'the angel of prisons', and even featured alongside her on the back of the Bank of England £5 note issued from 2002–2017, in a painting of them visiting Newgate Prison in 1816.

Bible Society is committed to carrying on that legacy. Working with prison chaplains, and prisoners directly, we aim to improve access to Bibles and Bible engagement materials in whatever language prisoners need, in the belief that by engaging with the Bible their lives can be changed, for good.

If you wish to donate go to www.biblesociety.org.uk



"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."
John 1:25



Matthew 21:1-11

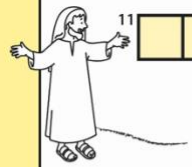
1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues

Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



Matthew 27:27-61

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?

Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?

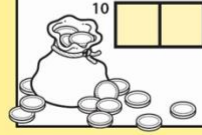


14

Matthew 26:14-16

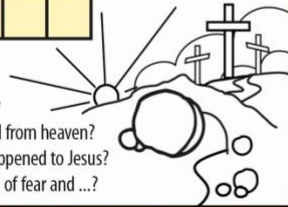
- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?

16



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



What is it ? Where is it ?

“It” is the sculpture “*Antelope*” by Samson Kambalu, which currently sits on the 4th plinth in Trafalgar Square. It is the 11th piece of artwork to be commissioned by the Mayor of London’s Culture Team and will be removed later this year. Having seen it on a recent trip to central London I did a bit of research and discovered the following.....

Apparently, the sculpture restages a photograph taken in 1914 of Baptist preacher John Chilembwe and European missionary John Chorley. That photograph was taken at the opening of Chilembwe’s new church in Nyasaland (now Malawi). As in the photo, both men are wearing hats (Africans were forbidden from wearing hats in the presence of their colonial rulers at the time) but, unlike the photo, the figure of Chilembwe is almost twice as tall as that of Chorley. The disparity in size plays with perspective – the figures appear to occupy a space much larger than the top of the plinth itself – but it must also be symbolic.

John Chilembwe was born in 1871 and in 1892 he became a servant of Joseph Booth, a radical and independent missionary who (unlike some who were reluctant to admit Africans as full church members) was focused on the equality of all worshippers. He trained as a Minister in the US and returned to Nyasaland in 1900, where he founded churches and schools, teaching African advancement through Christianity, hard work and self-respect. He railed against the treatment of Africans working on European owned plantations and the colonial government’s failure to promote the social and political advancement of Africans. Working conditions on the A. L. Bruce estates, managed by William Jervis Livingstone, were particularly harsh. The outbreak of the First World War saw Nyasaland Africans becoming involved and suffering for “*a cause which is not theirs*”. This seems to have tipped Chilembwe from campaigner to interventionist and in early 1915 he organised an abortive uprising. William Jervis Livingstone was killed and beheaded and on 24th January of that year Chilembwe conducted a church

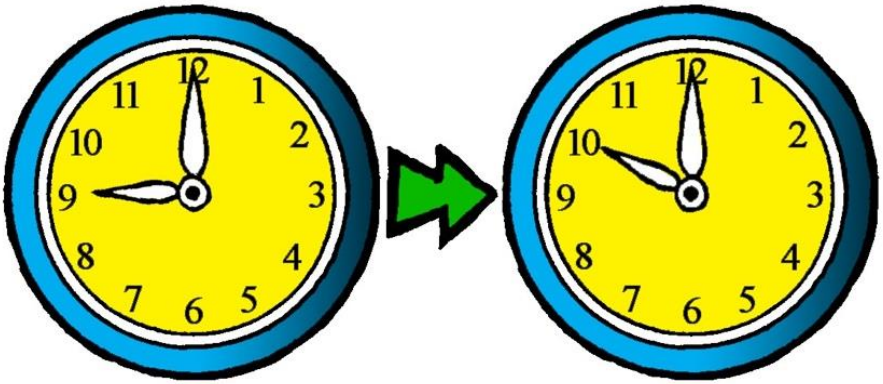
service with the impaled head of Livingstone prominently displayed! (He was tracked down and killed on 3rd February). The subsequent Commission of Enquiry held that W J Livingstone had imposed an unduly harsh regime on the workers, but he alone was blamed. The estate owners (who had placed impossible demands on him) and the idea that the relationship between European and African should be that of master and servant, both escaped censures.

Malawi became an independent member of the Commonwealth in 1964. Today Chilembwe is celebrated as a hero of independence and John Chilembwe Day is celebrated annually on 15th January.

Why “*Antelope*”? Apparently, the sculptor, Samson Kambalu, told the Guardian newspaper that the work is so named because “*Chilembwe’s hat rises to two peaks like antelope horns and the antelope is the most generous animal in the bush – recklessly, stupidly generous*”.

On reflection... a Baptist minister preaching with an impaled head prominently displayed? the action of a generous antelope ?..... It seems to be a far cry from the exhortation of Jesus to “*love your neighbour as yourself*” (Mark 12 v 31). But if A. L. Bruce estates (and W. J. Livingstone in particular) had heeded that commandment to begin with..... How many conflicts are raging in the world today because oppression and injustice has been allowed to prosper? I’ve always thought of and experienced the benefit of “loving one’s neighbour as oneself” as being an inner sense of joy and peace. Catching sight of the “*Antelope*” statue and researching its back story has reminded me that the benefit can be much more tangible – given the opportunity I suspect that William Jervis Livingstone would probably agree!

Mike Young



Do Not Forget - the Clocks go Forward.....

.....by 1 hour at **2.00am Sunday 31st March**

So remember to put them one hour forward when before going to bed on Saturday evening.

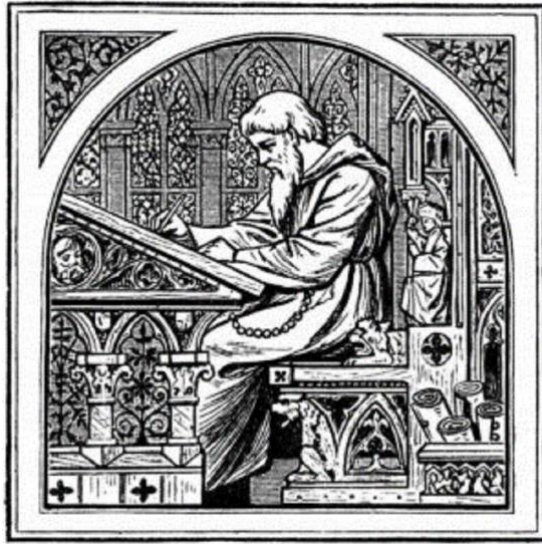
Answers to Crossword in Dec 23/Jan /Feb 24 Issue

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.



This was spotted at Lichfield Cathedral and the choir would love to see this ancient custom introduced to Ickenham URC



Co-ordinator's Ramblings!!

On Saturday 17th October 2009 Celia and I had the pleasure of singing with the Free Church Choir Union at their Festival of *“Praise and Thanksgiving”* in Coventry Cathedral. The service took place in the wonderful “new” cathedral, designed by Sir Basil Spence and opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 21st March 1956.

Amongst its many glories is the beautiful and stunning tapestry, *“Christ in Glory”* by Graham Sutherland. Immediately next to the “modern” cathedral is the old cathedral, which was St Michael’s Church in 1043 and transformed into Cathedral from 1095 -1105 and finally destroyed in an air raid in November 1940. There we witnessed the Cross of Christ constructed from three nails unearthed from the destroyed building. These memories were brought back to me by the following words taken from the Parish Pump.

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement that bought us peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:4-6

Coventry Cathedral uses as its emblem the Coventry Passion Cross – three nails together forming the Cross of Christ. Here is the writer of

this article's reflection on the Coventry Passion Cross; what does this design mean to you?



The first nail is the carpenter's nail and focuses us on the purpose of the nail. We are reminded that Jesus worked as a carpenter before entering His ministry. As He sat there in His carpenter's workshop, smoothing and working the wood with love, did He contemplate the rugged cross on which He would one day be crucified? As He hammered nails into wood, did He ever accidentally hammer one into His finger, and as He felt that pain, did

He foresee the nails of His crucifixion? As He carried large logs to His workshop to make tables, chairs, and doors, did He contemplate the cross he would one day carry to Calvary?

The second nail is the nail of **Passion**, it represents the nails in Jesus' hands and feet that He accepted because of His passionate love for us.

The third nail is the nail of Promise, like the promise He made to the dying thief on the cross. It was that if we believe in Him, then we will reign with Him in paradise. This is the nail that Christ offers to you and to me. Will you accept this nail as a sign of His passionate love, His forgiveness of your sin and promise of eternal life for all who will come to Him? If so, why not pray the following prayer this Eastertide?

Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You have a plan and a purpose for my life, thank You for Your passionate love for me, thank You that Your blood was shed for my sins, thank You for Your promise of eternal life. As I think about that nail of promise, I receive Your passion, Your grace and Your forgiveness, may I fulfil Your plan and purpose for my life, In Jesus name, Amen.

As I sit here putting this issue to 'bed' I look out of the window to see the rain is coming down in stair rods. I am sure we are all looking forward to the weather improving with Spring, when the flowers erupt into their sometimes simple, and sometimes complicated, shapes and brilliant colours. Not to be left out the trees join in gradually, opening their buds into intricate patterns of leaves in all shades of green. Brings back a memory of my business partner at the time enquiring why I needed a quite expensive Pantone reference book. It was very helpful in matching exactly the colours of company logos for printing. His comment was *green is green why do you need it?* Obviously he travelled through the countryside with his eyes shut!

The seasons we experience come and go every year in the pattern that has been created by God's hand and existing for millions of years changing and adapting to the needs of its pressures and change of surroundings in some shape or other.

Soon Easter will be upon us where we follow the story of Jesus giving his life in sacrifice for us and rising again in glory to give us light and joy in our lives and above all, hope for a better future. Part of prayers to God must pray for our future "adaptions" to his will.

Hopefully soon, one of those "adaptions" will be the opportunity to have a minister come and preach with a view, as the work of this church's committee and that of Christ Church work in harmony with our Interim Moderator, Sue McCoan, to bring that "adaption" into effect.

I must own up that if you read this magazine and remember last year's issue covering these periods, you may notice that the last two paragraphs are the same from last year. A reminder that we are still working towards those "adaptions." Where, with God's help, we will experience a "preaching with a view" on Sunday 28th April!!!!

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

John

**The next issue will be for June/July/August 2023.
The deadline for copy is 13th May 2023.**

Regular Activities

Sunday	10.00am	Choir Practice
	11.00am	Morning Worship (Children's Space available)

Holy Communion is normally included in the third Sunday morning service each month.

Monday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Tuesday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Wednesday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Thursday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Friday	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
Saturday	10.00 - 12. noon	Coffee Morning (at main fundraising events)

Church Office

Shellie D'Arcy

(Administrator/Lettings Officer) 01895 634 280 / 07792 143 888

Children & Families Worker: Position Vacant

Prayer Group Meeting

Everybody are welcome to attend – Led by Esme Young
Third Wednesday in the Month at 2.00pm in The Hardwick Room

Food For Thought

(Soup & a roll with speaker)

First Wednesday in the Month at 1.00pm in The Oasis Café

House Groups – Contact Church Administrator for details

For Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Chris Potter (Group Scout Leader) chrispotter_@hotmail.com

For Guides - Hilary Parker – 4th.ickenhamguides@gmail.com

For Brownies - Susannah Edwards – susannah.may@ledvance.com

Happy Days Pre-School – happydayspreschoolickenham@gmail.com

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